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ALL POSTS PLEASE PASS PAO

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, JANUARY 30, 1989

1. PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCES:

EL SALVADOR: STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS NEW STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON EL SALVADOR. WHY WAS IT WRITTEN? WHAT ARE ITS CONCLUSIONS?

A: THE REPORT WAS RELEASED LAST NOVEMBER BY THE BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AS PART OF ITS PUBLIC INFORMATION SERIES. IT IS A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS THAT ADDRESSES THE MISTAKEN NOTIONS THAT THE POLITICAL CENTER IN EL SALVADOR IS COLLAPSING, THAT THE OVERALL SALVADORAN SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED GRAVELY, AND THAT OUR POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR ITS CONTINUED DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION NEEDS TO BE MODIFIED.

THE REPORT'S MAIN POINTS ARE:

THAT EL SALVADOR'S DYNAMIC DEMOCRATIC PROCESS ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF ITS PEOPLE AND HAS WROUGHT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE ACROSS THE RANGE OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS;
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THAT THE MINORITY OF EXTREMISTS OF LEFT AND RIGHT ARE RELEVANT TO THE PROCESS ONLY BECAUSE THEY USE VIOLENCE TO OPPOSE IT;

THAT THE COMPLETION OF THE SALVADORAN EFFORT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE DEMOCRACY REQUIRES CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT.

THAT THE U.S. REMAINS VERY ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS.

I HAVE COPIES OF THE REPORT AVAILABLE HERE, AND I SUGGEST THAT ANYBODY WHO IS INTERESTED READ IT FOR HIMSELF.

NICARAGUA: CIA AUDIT OF CONTRAS

Q. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT CIA IS CONDUCTING AN AUDIT OF THE SECRET POLITICAL FUND OF THE NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT TO OFFER ON THOSE REPORTS.

2. IO PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE OF JANUARY 30, 1989:

UNHRC - CUBA HUMAN RIGHTS

Q: NOW THAT THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAS BEGUN ITS MEETING IN GENEVA, WILL THE U.S. CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR MONITORING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA?

A: THE EFFICACY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS BY GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

CLEARLY LIES IN CONTINUING TO SHINE THE GLARE OF UNWANTED PUBLICITY UPON THEM. A CRUCIAL TEST FOR THE UNHRC, THEREFORE, WILL LIE IN WHETHER IT WILL CONTINUE ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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SCRUTINY OF CUBA.

THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THAT CUBA BE HELD TO THE STANDARDS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS -- THE STANDARDS BY WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES ARE JUDGED.

Q: WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE UNHRC REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA?

A: WE EXPECT THAT THE REPORT OF THE UNHRC'S CUBA WORKING GROUP WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW DURING THIS SESSION (JANUARY 30 THRU MARCH 10).

3. CA PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE OF JANUARY 30, 1989:

COLOMBIA: KIDNAPPED AMERICAN

Q: WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON AN AMERICAN NAMED MICHAEL YALE REIF WHO HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED IN MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA?

A: WE CAN CONFIRM THAT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WAS KIDNAPPED ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, IN MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA. AT THE TIME OF THE KIDNAPPING, THE AMERICAN WAS RIDING IN A CAR WITH A PROMINENT COLOMBIAN BUSINESSMAN. THE CAR WAS BLOCKED AT AN INTERSECTION, AND SEVEN MEN OVERWHELMED AND CAPTURED THE COLOMBIAN BUSINESSMAN AND THE AMERICAN CITIZEN.

COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES DO NOT YET KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE KIDNAPPERS OR THEIR MOTIVES. THE KIDNAPPERS HAVE NOT MADE ANY DEMANDS.

WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN'S FAMILY AND OUR EMBASSY UNCLASSIFIED

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IN BOGOTA IS WORKING WITH THE COLOMBIANS IN DEVELOPING INFORMATION ON THIS CASE.

4. VERBATIM EXCERPTS FROM DEPT. DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1989:

EL SALVADOR

Q: IS THERE A SPLIT WITH PRESIDENT DUARTE ON THE GUERRILLA PROPOSAL?

A: ABSOLUTELY NOT. ONE HAS TO SMILE SOMETIMES AT THE HEADLINES THAT APPEAR IN PARTS OF THE MEDIA, BUT, NO, THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO SPLIT. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, WE BELIEVED THAT THESE PROPOSALS ARE GETTING SERIOUS AND SUBSTANTIAL CONSIDERATION. PRESIDENT DUARTE HAS SENT THEM AROUND TO VARIOUS OTHER SALVADORAN LEADERS.

THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS NOTED, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, CONCERNING CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ISSUES. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME POSITIVE POINTS NOTED. SO I THINK BASED ON OUR SOUNDINGS WITH PRESIDENT DUARTE AND OTHER LEADERS, THAT'S THE STATE OF PLAY AS WE UNDERSTAND IT.

Q: WAS PRESIDENT DUARTE MISQUOTED WHEN HE SAID SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT THIS WAS NOT A PEACE PROPOSAL BUT A WAR PROPOSAL?

A: I THINK WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS LOOK AT EVERYTHING HE SAID, AND THAT'S ALWAYS THE CASE. PEOPLE LIKE TO CHOOSE THIS STATEMENT OR THAT STATEMENT AND SAY THAT'S THE SUM TOTAL OF IT, AND IT CERTAINLY ISN'T IN THE CASE OF THOSE PARTICULAR STATEMENTS. AND I HAVE QUOTED MYSELF MANY OTHER THINGS THAT HE'S SAID.

Q: BUT YOU'RE NOT DISPUTING THAT ONE STATEMENT.
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A: THE STATEMENT IS THERE. YOU CAN ALL READ THAT.

MEXICO

Q: MEXICAN CONGRESSMEN YESTERDAY, THEY CRITICIZED THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO BUILD THIS CANAL IN CALIFORNIA. WOULDN'T THAT BE CONSIDERED AN INTRUSION AND MEDDLING IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS?

A: LET ME JUST GIVE YOU WHAT I KNOW ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR BARRIER DITCH, AS IT'S CALLED I THINK. THE INS HAS COORDINATED THE PLANS FOR THIS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, FOR EXAMPLE. THESE PLANS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT. THE PLANS ARE TO CONSTRUCT A DUAL-PURPOSE BORDER SECURITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AND DRAINAGE DITCH.

ABOUT FOUR MILES IN LENGTH. IT WOULD EXTEND ABOUT ONE MILE EAST AND THREE MILES WEST OF THE OTAY MESA PORT OF ENTRY IN CALIFORNIA.

ONE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT IS TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY OF VEHICLES. THE BORDER PATROL HAS OBSERVED AS MANY AS 369 SUCH ENTRIES A MONTH ACROSS THE LEVEL PLAIN NEAR OTAY MESA. THESE HAVE RESULTED IN HOT PURSUITS, ACCIDENTS, ONE ACCIDENTAL DEATH, AND SERIOUS INJURIES TO UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS.

THE DITCH WOULD ALSO RESOLVE A PROBLEM THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED US TO FIX CAUSED BY DRAINAGE FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE U.S. SIDE. HENCE, DUAL PURPOSE.

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WE HAVE KEPT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT INFORMED OF INS' CURRENT PLANS THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION.

5. SUMMARY OF DEPT. DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1989:

NICARAGUA

SPOKESMAN USED PREPARED GUIDANCE ON CIA AUDIT OF CONTRAS.

BAKER

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